

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 4. **(canceled)**

5. **(withdrawn):** A method of inspecting a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit, for a motor in which a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit manufactured by a method as set forth in claim 1 is installed, comprising a step of:

repeatedly starting/stopping the motor and observing the presence/absence of movement of the boundary surface on the oil within the bearing clearances, and the frequency with which such movement occurs, to check for the presence/absence of occurrences of foaming within the oil and the cause of any such occurrences.

6. **(new):** A method for use in the manufacturing of a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit having a sleeve, and a shaft disposed within the sleeve with bearing clearance existing therebetween whereby one of the shaft and the sleeve is rotatable relative to the other, the method comprising:

evacuating a first chamber containing oil until a first level of vacuum pressure prevails in the first chamber;

providing within the first chamber a stirrer of a type that can be actuated remotely by a motor that is not mechanically attached to the stirrer;

stirring the oil in the first chamber with the stirrer by actuating the stirrer remotely from outside the first chamber using the motor;

evacuating a second chamber, in which the bearing unit is disposed, independently of the first chamber and until a second level of vacuum pressure prevails in the second chamber;

supplying the oil from the first chamber to the bearing clearance of the bearing unit disposed in the second chamber when the first level of vacuum pressure is prevailing in the first chamber and the second level of vacuum pressure is prevailing in the second chamber; and

subsequently increasing the pressure inside the second chamber to thereby induce the oil to spread into the bearing clearance.

7. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the stirrer provided in the first chamber comprises a magnetic material, and the stirring of the oil in the first chamber comprises rotating a magnet outside the first chamber.

8. **(new):** The method according to claim 7, further comprising heating the oil as the oil in the first chamber is being stirred by the stirrer.

9. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, further comprising heating the oil in the first chamber as the oil is being stirred by the stirrer.

10. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the first vacuum pressure level is about 100 Pa or less.

11. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the stirring of the oil with the stirrer is initiated after the first level of vacuum pressure is established in the first chamber by evacuating the first chamber.

12. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the supplying of the oil from the first chamber to the bearing clearance of the bearing unit is carried out while the pressure in the second chamber is higher than the pressure in the first chamber.

13. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the supplying of the oil into the bearing clearance of the bearing unit comprises feeding the oil from the first chamber via a location disposed above the location at which the oil enters the bearing clearance.

14. **(new):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the second level of vacuum pressure is a higher level of pressure than the first level of vacuum pressure.